

R. Mitchell 1738

THE FOURTH CATECHISM.

- I. Questions put to the Man of Sin.
- II. The Locusts described, and the Mystery of Iniquity, with a dreadful Prophecy.
- III. Remarks on the Sermons at *Braid's* Craigs.
- IV. The Story of the Destruction of the Dogs, and Downfal of Popes, and a Petition to the King, &c.

Written by the Tinctarian Doctor, in the 68 Year of his AGE.



The Text, 2 *Theff.* ii. Chap. And that Man of Sin be revealed, that he might be revealed in his Time; now is the Time, the Mystery of Iniquity [doth already work: Only he who now letteth, will let, until he be taken out of the Way.



E D I N B U R G H,

Printed in the Year 1738.



Tinclarian Doctor's Fourth CATECHISM, &c.



N this Catechism ye shall know what withholdeth, that he might be revealed in his Time. Here I shall write that all the hired Clergy in the World are not capable to answer this, according to the Scriptures, they may be ashamed.

God hath chosen the foolish Things of the World to confound the Wise; God hath chosen the weak Things of the World; to confound the Things which are mighty; and base Things of the World, and Things which are despised, hath God chosen, that no Flesh should glory in his Presence.

Here I shall write God's Mind, if I should be hanged for it, but these Locusts dare not preach God's Mind, for the Fear of Hanging; especially, all them who hath made unlawful Acts, and sworn unlawful Oaths, and now hath read that unlawful Act in their Pulpets.

Says *St. Paul*, Even so we speak not as pleasing Men, but God; but, say they, even so we speak not as pleasing God, but Men; then whether is it right in the Sight of God, to hearken unto such Men as they are, more than unto God? Let the World judge. We ought to obey God rather than Men; an unsound Speech should be condemned by all, but a sound Speech cannot be condemned: Says *Paul to Titus*, In the Name of all the Ministers in
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the World, the contrary Party may now be ashamed. They have made plain, that they are Enemies to sound Doctrine; all that will live godly, shall suffer Persecution, but they will suffer none; the Spirit doth not say, they may suffer, but he says, they shall suffer; this makes it plain, that these Hirelings are not godly Men. I say, as true as the Scriptures are the Word of God, as true it is, that all these Ministers who hath chosen Sin before Suffering, are the Ministers of the Devil with a Witness; where God hath one Minister, the Devil hath a Thousand, altho' they be transformed as Ministers of Righteousness. There is as much Difference between Christ's Apostles and the Ministers in *Scotland*, as there was between the Scribes and Pharisees and them; the Apostles went from the Council, rejoycing that they were counted worthy to suffer Shame for his Name; this makes it plain, that both them and their Hearers are bewitched; so says the Spirit, to whom they all give Head, from the least to the greatest, saying, These Men hath the great Power of God; ye hear how the World is bewitched by the hired Clergy; The Scriptures stands still in Force to the End of the World; they were written for the Living and not for the Dead.

O the Love of Money, which is the Root of all Evil, as it ruined *Judas*, so hath the most Part of the hired Clergy: Christ sent out his Ministers, with this Charge and Command, For to take no Money to preach his free Gospel; but the hired Clergy will obey the Devil before they obey him; I say *Babylon* shall not fall, until Men preach the Gospel of God freely, as he commands, and as his Apostles did.

Hired Clergy, I shall ask a Question of you, and if ye will not answer it in the Name of God, then answer it in the Name of the Devil, your King; it hath been him that hath given you all this Power over the Christian World, as shall be proven, it hath been him that hath filled your Hearts, to lie to the Holy Ghost. By your thinking that ye can gain Souls for Money, and by your thinking ye preach Christ's free Gospel for Money, expressly against his Will, ye must know, that it is not Christ's Gospel ye preach

preach for Money, but it is the Devil's, with a Witness. Christ's Gospel is a free Gospel; so says *Paul*, I make the Gospel of God without Charges; *Paul* made his Gospel one Way, and ye make your Gospel another Way; would not I then be as mad as ye are, to come or go to hear your Gospel? I believe in God, and not in you; this one Scripture makes it plain, that both you and your Hearers are bewitched, by their believing you, and not the Scriptures.

Now the Question, hired Clergy, Have ye these Scriptures by you, where ye are commanded to take Money for to preach Christ's free Gospel? If ye have them not by you, then ye are the Ministers of the Devil, with a Witness, and he hath blindfolded you, that ye have not Power to apply the Scriptures to yourselves, but to other Men; none needs to expect Good of the Scriptures, except that they believe, that God is speaking to themselves, and not to another: This is the Way how the Devil blindfolds the World, by his hindering them to apply the Scriptures to themselves.

The hired Clergy pretends to be Explainers of God's Laws, and they lade their Hearers with grievous Burdens; but they themselves touch not the Burden with one of their Fingers, saith Christ; For that he is just now pronouncing a Woe against them, because they do not apply their Duties to themselves, so as to live by Faith; the Just shall live by Faith, says the Spirit; but the hired Clergy lives by Sense; then what Use is the Lord's Prayer to them? They need not pray for their daily Bread, when Sogers are sent to rob poor Mens Houses for their Bread; they dare not deny this, *Ahab* the King did not kill *Naboth*; it was his Wife; yet he was blamed for it; so shall the hired Clergy, for robbing God. We are commanded, by Christ, to beware of the hired Clergy who hath come to us in Sheeps Clothing, but inwardly are ravening Wolves for Greed; there Belly is not able to hold what they rob from God, for that, he calls them Thieves and Robbers, and greedy Dogs, which can never have enough, as the Kirk Treserers are. If any Man in all the World go to Hell, it will be the hired Clergy and the Pope, they both take Money for Sin; if I were guilty of these

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Sins which they are guilty of, I would deserve the Gallows, so do they; the Price of a Whore is a Abomination in the Sight of God; but it is a Pleasure to the Clergy in *Edinburgh*, otherwise they would not suffer it to take Money for Sin; like Man like Master, the one cannot condemn the other for Blackness: None should be an Elder in a Kirk, where the Devil's Act is read; ye hear that it bring Men to Disgrace.

Dare any of you, hired Clergy, take God to be your Witness, that your Clocks are not Clocks of Covetousness, as *Paul* did? Dare any of you say ye love God, when ye do not keep his Commands? And this Command should be kept as any in the moral Law, to wit, to preach the Gospel of God freely: Them that are guilty of one Point of the Law, is guilty of all, says the Spirit; ye hear that all the hired Clergy are guilty of the Breach of all the ten Commands, and as they are blind, so they are also deaf; they can neither see nor hear the Proclamation that is cried through the World, with a Ho, Ho every one that thirsteth, come and buy without Money and without Price; but the Ministers in *Edinburgh* must have two Thousand and five Hundred Merks a Year, for the Price of their Preachings; the Poor in the City should have that Money, and not them; the Poor in the City is now robbed and oppressed; in so doing, they have robbed God. Will a Man rob God? yea, says he, Ye have robbed me; if the Ministers in the City were the Ministers of Christ, they would not have suffered his House to be robbed; the Poor are his House, as ye read, they would rather given down their Stipend to pay the City's Debt, nor as to have robbed God; they are bad Servents who is content to have their Masters House robbed.

Christ is, at this present Time, saying to the hired Clergy freely, As ye have received freely, freely give; but they set at nought all his Counsel, and will have none of his Reproofs, says the Spirit; the hired Clergy holds Christ either for a Liar or a Mockers; for that, he pronounces eight Woes against them; they care not for the Sheep, says he, their Care is for Money, let their Money perish with them, for thinking that the Gift of God may be purchased for Money, or by their thinking that they can keep Me,
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out of Hell for Money; what is the Difference between them and *Simon* the Warloch? I see none; I perceive they are in the Gall of Bitterness, and in the Bond of Iniquity, so long as they take Money for to preach Christ's free Gospel.

Be wise now therefore, O ye Kings, be instructed ye Judges of the Earth, says the Spirit, and hire no more Men for to preach the Devil's Gospel: It is Kings and Rulers that upholds *Babylon*; so says the Spirit, The Kings of the Earth set themselves, and the Rulers take Counsel together against the Lord, and against his anointed; ye hear that it is Kings and Rulers that upholds that common Whore; the Protestant Churches, thinks the Popish Churches is that Whore the Popish Churches thinks the Protestant Churches is that VVhore; but I say, they are both that VVhore; so says the Spirit, all Nations have drunk of the VVine of the VVrath of her Fornication; they have all one Mind, says the Spirit, and shall give their Power and Strength unto the Beast; the Spirit said, then they shall, but now it is come to pass. This Scripture make it plain, to all that sees, but to them whom the God of this VVorld hath blindfolded, that all the Christian VVorld hath given their Power and Strength unto the Beast, which is the hired Clergy. I say they are worse than Beasts, a Beast doth not sin so against Light as they do.

The Church of *Scotland*, and the Church of *England*, and the Church of *Rome*, they have all one Mind, by their heiring the Clergy to preach the Devil's Gospel; they all make VVar with the Lamb, as we read, but the Lamb shall overcome them. It is long since when *Satan* was loosed out of his Prison, it was in *Constantin's* Time, the first Christian Emperor, he was the first Man that hired the Clergy to preach after Christ's Laws; he did it upon good Design, as he thought, but the Devil beguiled him, he did our first Parants; and, ever since, the hired Clergy preaches the Commandements of Men; so saith God, at this present Time, to them, In vain do ye worship, preaching for Doctrine the Commandement of Men. This Scripture makes it plain, that it is not the Commandement

ment of God that the hired Clergy preaches ; it is a only long Tradition that they had from Men, and by this long Tradition, they think they are Cock sure of their Stipends ; so says the Spirit of them, she hath glorified herself and lived deliciously ; behold the hired Clergys End, so much Torment and Sorrow give her, she saith in her Heart, Now I sit a Queen, am no Widow, and shall see no Sorrow, therefore shall her Plagues come in one Day, Death, Murning and Famine, and she shall be utterly burnt with Fire, for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her ; ye hear what Judgments is quickly coming on the hired Clergy.

What sort of Locusts are these who obeys the Commandements of Men, and will not obey the Commands of the great God ? His Word endureth for ever ; when *Constantine's* Word shall fall, *Babylon* shall fall ; the Devil is now gone out to the World, to deceive the Nations which are in the four Quarters of the Earth, *Gog* and *Magog*, which is Man and Woman, to gather them together to Battle against God, the Number of them, is as the Sand of the Sea ; but Fire shall come down from God, out of Heaven, and devour them, and the Devil that deceived them, shall be cast into the Lake of Fire and Brimston, where the Beast and the false Prophets are, and shall be tormented Day and Night, for ever and ever ; the Spirit takes Notice of the hired Clergy, above all them that is gone to Hell ; so he says, where the Beast is, and they are that Beast, if ever there was a Beast in the World.

And I stood upon the Sand of Sea, and I saw a Beast rise up out of the Sea ; if these Locusts that hath come out of the Smoke of the Pit, be not that Beast, the Sea never caried a Beast ; they have seven Heads, and ten Horns, and ten Crowns ; no King, hath so many ; that is their great Power and Authority over Kings and over the Christian World, and all the Christian World wonders after the hired Clergy, and worships them, saying, Who is like unto the Beast ; who is able to make War with the hired Clergy ? They have such a powerful King, besides Numberless Followers, they are blind who doth not see, this.

this; but this blindfolded World can neither see nor know this common Whore, altho' they be daily committing Fornication with her, because she is called Mystery, *Babylon*, the Mother of Harlots, and the Abomination of the Earth; the Spirit repeats these Word twice over, That the Kings of the Earth commits Fornication with this common Whore, the hired Clergy, by giving their Money to them.

Their Head Minister's Name shuold not be called Moderator, but he should be called Fornicator; for he is worse than a Fornicator, for reading the evil Act in his Pulpit.

The hired Clergy she hath made all the Earth drunken of her Wine; therefore the Nations are mad, says the Spirit; this makes it plain, that all the Hearers of the hired Clergy are mad; it were good for them that they were bound to their Beds, when they go to their Kirks; this Scripture was written long before the Popes came to the World; these mad Hirelings should not apply this Scripture to the Papists, but to themselves; but the Devil hath made them mad for Money: Many of the Clergy in *France* will take no Money, which I know to be true, when I was in *France*, and if any Clergy Man go to Heaven, it will be such as they are; this Scripture make it plain, that the hired Clergy and their Hearers are mad; them who says the contrary, they make God a Liar.

I say, all the Hearers and Followers of the hired Clergy are Worshipers of the Devil; so say the Spirit, and they worshiped the Dragon, which gave Power unto the Beast; this Scripture makes it plain, altho' the hired Clergy preach as an Angel of Light, their Power is only from the Devil: And this great Power they have got from the Dragon, makes them say, I will be like the most High; ye hear they shall be brought down to Hell, says the Spirit; ye hear it is a dangerous Thing to be Hearers of the hired Clergy; they are the Mystery of Iniquity opened, and the Man of Sin revealed; as true as the Scriptures are the Word of God, this is true; so he that hath an Ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches

I know this Sermon shall be opposed by the hired Clergy their Pride, and their King's Pride, will not suffer

fer it to be so baffled by a poor Tindlar; so says the Spirit of them who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he, as God, sitteth in the Temple of God, and jbeaweth themselves with Confidence, that they are God's Ministers; their Pride makes them lift up themselves above Kings, which is there called God; Kings had better cast out with the Divil, as to cast out with the hired Clergy; they dare not take their Stipends from them.

Great Babylon hath great Power; the Spirit commands us to beware of such Dogs, and to turn away from them, and to withdraw from them, and to come out from them. Come out of her my People, and be not a Partaker of her Sins, and that ye receive not of her Plagues. Her Sins hath now reached unto Heaven, and God hath now remembered her Iniquities. It is the hired Clergy that is called (HER) through the Scriptures. You their Hearers are Partakers of her Sins, and, if ye come not out of her, ye shall, in a short Time, receive of her Plagues. It hath begun with Dogs in this City, but it shall end with the Whore and her Hearers.

It is not for nothing that God hindereth me from Sleep until I wrote this; surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his Secret unto his Servants the Prophets.

I have been shooting Arrows at that Whore these 28 Years, to ding down Babylon, and sounding Trumpets to give the Nations Warning, five Years more than Jeremiah did; I say, in a short Time, Plagues shall come on this Nation, except the Clergy preach the Gospel of God freely. Before they do that, they will set all the World by the Ears; Fathers against Sons, and Sons against Fathers. It is not in Mens Power to come out of Babylon, until God's Word be fulfilled, as we read; because they receive not the Love of the Truth, that they might be saved, says Paul; and, for this Cause, God sent them strong Delusions that they should believe a Lie, that they all may be damned who believe not the Truth. Christ only is the Way, and the Truth, and the Life, and his Word is Truth, and the Scripture cannot be broken. But the World will not believe his Word, but they believe a Lie, that the hired Clergy are the Ministers of God, which is a damnable Lie. It is plain, by Christ's own Words, that it is a Lie; so says he to his Father, I have given them thy Word, and the World hateth them; but the hired Clergy

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Clergy are loved by the *World*, because the *World* loves his own. Hired Clergy, you that is worshipped by your Hearers, if ye say ye are the Ministers of God, ye make him a Liar to his Face; and the Word is not in you. It is the Word of the Devil that is in you who preaches his Gospel for Money. Ye should all go the Way of Porteous, because ye will not believe God's Word.

Men should preach the Gospel of God out of pure Love to him, to have him glorified; but the hired Clergy preaches for Self-ends, to have their Bellies filled. So saith Christ to them, at this present Time, Ye seek me not because of the Miracles, but because ye did eat of the Loaves, and were filled. Ye hear that it is only for the 12 Bellies that the hired Clergy follow Christ; but they should follow his Word, because his Word endureth for ever. They have a Form of Godliness, says Paul, but they deny the Power of it. If any Man preach any other Gospel than that which Paul preached, let him be accursed; the Words are doubled, that the hired Clergy may be sure that they shall be cursed. There is many a Curse upon their Heads. It is a Wonder to me, how these Locusts hath Confidence to mount a Pulpit, for rebelling against God. It is also a Wonder to me, That them and their Pulpits doth not sink, because they preach expressly for Money, against God's Will.

Be Followers of me, says Paul, as I follow Christ. But these Locusts will not do it; and if they be the Ministers of Christ, Paul hath been the Minister of the Devil. So says he, We that are the Ministers of Christ, even unto this present Time 1738, we both hunger and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwelling Place; but the Ministers of the Devil, many of them, is fat like Swine; this made David the King say, Verrily I have cleansed my Heart in Vain. When he forsook the Devil's Ministers with their Eyes standing out with Fatness, when this great Temptation was over, then he was sure that these rich fat Ministers should be cast down unto Destruction. The Scripture stands still in Force.

The hired Clergy will not believe that God is able to maintain them, except they have a fixed Stipend. O ye of little Faith, how long shall God suffer you to live, who only follows him, upon Condition to have your Bellies filled, and Money to ly by you? As Christ keeps Ministers, so doth the Devil: His Pride will not suffer himself to be short of Christ; as the Scriptures makes it

it plain, where it is said they are the Ministers of Satan, and are transformed as Angels of Light, to blindfold the world; as Paul speaks of another Gospel than his Gospel, then certainly there are two Gospels.

Believe this Sermon; when Judgment was threatened against the old World, they got Sixscore of Years to repent; When Judgments were threatened against Jerusalem they got Forty Years to repent, that the world may know his long suffering Patience; but few know the Time of their Judgment; neither do I; but they shall surely come. So says the Spirit, Her Time is ne'er to come, her Days shall not be prolonged. Reader, if ye will not come out of Babylon, this Sermon shall torment you in Hell. He that hath an ear to hear, let them hear. God hath hid these Things from the Wise and Prudent, and hath revealed them to Fools.

I give Orders to the Bishops in England, to make an Act every Year, and make our Clergy read it in their Pulpits, that they may win soon to Hell, and then our Nation will be free of that great Plague, the Locusts, which eats up all, and starves the Poor; they have now covered the Face of the whole Earth, says the Spirit; so that our Land is darkened by these Locusts. When they all shall be cast in the Red-sea, then there shall be glorious Days of the Gospel.

St. Paul foresaw these woful Days which we see, which made him fear and tremble, so he says But I fear, lest, by any Means, as the Serpent beguiled Eve through his Subtility, so your Minds should be corrupt from the Simplicity that is in Christ; for, if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another Spirit which ye have not received, or another Gospel which ye have not accepted, ye hear he says, he that cometh; now they are come, they have another Jesus, and another Spirit, and another Gospel than Paul's Gospel. Ye hear that the hired Clergy hath changed all the three; which makes it plain, that it is the Devils Gospel that the hired Clergy preacheth. Christ's Gospel is a free Gospel, but the Devil's Gospel is a chargeable Gospel. Paul made his Gospel free and without Charges. Then how dare they, for their Lives, call their Gospel Christ's Gospel? They have learned to lie by their King; he was a Liar, and is a Liar, and the Father of Liars. Ye hear, that it is plain, that the

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World is blindfolded, by their going to hear the De vil's Gospel, and the Diuill's spirit.

I give Orders to the Commissioner of their Kirks, to make their Clerks read this Sermon in their Assembly; and, if they be capable to answer it, let them sit; but if not, let them rise and be gone.

I say, at the Close, In God's Assembly God doth stand; and in the Diuill's Assembly the Diuill doth stand; let them assemble together in May first, and lay all their Wits together. I brag them all to answer this, according to the Scriptures; and if they cannot, let them never assemble together, is the Prayers of WILLIAM MITCHELL God save the King.

I shall write their Texts, and Scope of their Sermons at Braid's Craigs, this Year, by Mair, Wilsen and Erskine; one Text in Jeremiah 5 Chapter, 5 Verse, the Words are, They shall ask the Way to Zion, with their Faces thitherward, saying, Come, let us join ourselves to the Lord, in a perpetual Covenant that shall not be forgotten. The Scope, Regreating for a broken Covenant that was made in Scotland long ago. Another Text is in Ezek. 22 Chap. 23 and 24 Verses, the Words are, And the Word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of Man, say unto her, Thou art the Land that is not cleansed. The Scop, This Land is not cleansed for the breaking of that Covenant. Observe the Words of the Spirit, Say unto her, and not to him or them, that is, to the hired Clergy, which is the whore of Babylen that he is just now speaking to, and these Ministers are of the same; but the Diuill will not suffer them to apply it to themselves, so long as they take Money for to preach his Gospel. This Land will never be cleansed. Another of their Texts is in Hosea 13 Chapter, 9 Verse; the Words are, O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself. The Scope, We are destroyed for other Mens Sins. I observe from their Scopes, That the Diuill will not suffer Men to apply the Sins of the Land to themselves, but to other Men. Says David the King to the Prophet, As the Lord liveth, the Man that hath done this, shall surely die: And he was the Man himself that did the Sin. So says Ahab the King to the Prophet, So shall thy Judgment be, thy self hath deserved it. Yet he was the Man himself that did the Sin. He deserved the Judgment, and it came on him; so will it on the hired Clergy. If Men could take the Beam out of their own Eye

Eye, they would see the better to take the Meete out of the Neighbour's.

I do not approve of that Covenant, altho they said that there were threatened Judgments upon this Land, for the breaking of it; all the Covenants we are bound to keep, is to keep God's word; no other Covenants are commended to us in the Scriptures; so Jath Christ to his Father, they have kept the word; he cannot say that of the hired Clergy; it will be them that will bring Judgments on this Land, and not for the breaking of their Covenant; it is these Dogs which Paul commands us to be aware of; these Locusts who hath come out of the Smoke of the Pit, and hath got Power to hurt us, they have a powerful King over them, and they themselves have Crowns like Gold, and Hair like women; white wigs made of Womens Hair, and Faces like Men, to blindfold the world, and the Power is to hurt Men: This makes it plain, that it will be the hired Clergy that will bring Judgments upon this Land, altho' the Devil binders them to apply it.

It is a bad Covenant, to make me ty my Faith to another Man's Sleeve, as both Protestants and Popish do; it is written, that a Man should live by his own Faith, and not by the Faith of another; I see no Difference between them and their Bretheren, so long as they abide in their Kirks, and take Money for to preach the Devil's Gospel; the Smoke of the Pit hath blindfolded all the hired Clergy in the world; they abide in the Smoke with the rest, and bark like Dogs at them, and yet hath not Power to come out from them; the Love of Money seethers them fast, that they cannot run away; then what is the Difference between them and the rest of these Hirelings, so long as they remain in Babylon, as all the hired Clergy in the world do?

I would not be so grieved for their Deaths, as I am for the Death of the Dogs, because the Dogs hath not got that Power to hurt Men; but unto them is given Power, says the Spirit. If the King be pleased to take my Counsel, he would do with the hired Clergy, as Jehu the King did with Baal's Priests out of his Subtily; he proclaimed a solemn Assembly, and he said unto them, Ahab se ved Baol a little, but Jehu shall serve him much; the poor blindfolded Fellows believed him; so they came all for gladness, a big Housefull, from one End to the other, and the King gave Orders to his Sogers, that if they did let any of them go,
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their Life should go for it; and for the Love they had to their own Lives, they killed every one of them: The King lied, and yet he was commended for doing that; so will the King by me, if he would kill all the hired Clergy in his Dominions; for they are Baal's Priests with a witness. The last Day will be a terrible Day, when every one shall see Christ, and the hired Clergy especially, who hath peirced him both by their Robbery and by their Errors, with all Decervableness of Unrighteousness, says the Spirit.

If any Man will do his will, he shall know of the Doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of my self; did not Christ give you, hired Clergy, the Law, and yet none of you keepeth his Law?

Kings and Rulers are blindfolded, for giving to the hired Clergy so much Money; yet none of them is capable to answer a poor unlearned Tindlar, who was never at Schools, as to read the Bible; this makes it plain, that the world is bewitched by their believing them, and not the Scriptures; it is both a Sin and a Shame to give them so much Money, and me nothing for teaching them.

The Poors Petition in Edinburgh for Want of Meat, by Oppression and Robbery for Porteous's Sins.

Dedicated to his Majesty King George.

Great King, I live for ever; may it please your Majesty to hear the Cry of the Poor in Edinburgh; their Pensions is now taken away to pay the City's Debt; there is Sixteen Locusts bred in the City, for Forty Thousand Merks by Year, for to preach the Devil's Gospel, and that takes all the Money in the City that can be spared, and there is many of it, at the Point of Starving, by their Feeding these Locusts; and they have got Power to hurt all the People in the City, who hath not the Seal of God in their Fore-heads, says the Spirit.

May it please your Majesty to hear this Petition; your Majesty knows that Bread is not always to the wise, nor Riches to Men of Understanding; therefore, to him that knoweth to do good, and doth it not, to him it is Sin; withhold no good to whom it is due, when it is in the Power of thine Hand to do it. He that oppresseth the Poor reproacheth his Maker, but he that honoureth him, hath Mercy on the Poor; he that hath Pity on the Poor, lendeth unto the Lord; he maketh rich, and he maketh poor.

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May it please your Majesty, to hear the Cry of the Poor. The Reason for it is, Whoso stoppeth his Ears at the Cry of the Poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard, says the Spirit.

Great King, be pleased to hear the Cry of the Poor, that it may not be said to your Majesty on the great Day, I was hungry, and ye gave me no Meat.

Your Majesty may say, What is the Reason we are so poor? The Reason of it is, there is a Woman in our City, called *Wanton*, with the Attire of an Harlot, her Feet abideth not in her House, she is now out on the Streets, and lieth in wait at every Corner, and she meets Men who are simple, and void of Understanding, and she caughts them, and kisses them, and, with an impudent Face, says unto them, I have decked my Bed, come let us take our Fill of Love. With her much fair Speech she causes them to yield, and with the Flattering of her Lips, she forces them. There is many in our City who is ignorant, and goeth straightway after her, as an Ox goeth to the Slaughter. Our Pope hearing of this, by the Harlot, he comes to the Men, and he makes them pay to him a great Sum of Money, otherwise be disgrac'd, and excommunicated from their Churches twice in a Year; and our People being so proud, especially our Clergy, will rather give to the Pope a Thousand Pounds before they be so affronted, and that Money the Pope gets is for the Works of the Devil; then how can our City thrive? And if our Clergy belong to the Devil, so doth our Popes. Give them Money, a Man may take as many strange Women as he pleases, they give them a Pardon. If there were not so many Popes, there would not be so many Whores. I have known Popes that hired Women to play the Whore for to get Money to themselves. This is one Reason we are so poor, by giving Money to the Popes, and by bringing up Bastards, and maintaining Locusts.

I know Gentlemen that are able to bring up their Bastards, but, to hide their Knavery from their Wives and others, they give our Popes a Sum of Money; and, for the Love they have for Money, the Pope takes the Bastards off their Fathers Hands, and lays this great Burden upon the City. Then, what is the Difference between the

the Devil and the Pope? I see none; only the Devil hath more Wit, for that I put him before the Pope: I have spoken to them both. Them who buys my Books may know what I said to the Devil, and what he said to me.

I say, the Popes and the hired Clergy will make an ill End; so says the Spirit of them, and all the Hires thereof shall be burnt with Fire; for she gathered it off the Hire of an Harlot, and they shall return to the Hire of an Harlot. As *Abab* the Prophet shewed the Wrath of God against *Jacob*, so have I shewed his *Wrath* against *Scotland*.

Wo be to the Popes and the hired Clergy, they have taken away the Key of Knowledge, they enter not in themselves, and them that would enter they hinder, saith Christ, It is plain, that the Light that is in them is Darkness; they neither know the Mystery of Godliness, nor the Mystery of Iniquity. *Paul* opened his Mouth boldly, and he made known unto us the Mystery of his Gospel; but the hired Clergy shall never know the Mystery of *Paul's* Gospel. It is Money that they know. Them who know the Scriptures shall know both these Mysteries, and the Reason the hired Clergy errs, says Christ, is, because they do not know the Scriptures.

May it please your Majesty, to remove these Popes and these Locusts from among us. I say to your Majesty, as the King said to *Moses*, Intreat the Lord your God, that he may take away from us this Death only.

May it please your Majesty, I am your Majesty's poor Subject,

26 JY 60

William Mitchel.

In this Book I have been rude in Speech, yet not in Knowledge, as says *Paul*. I say, *Porteous* hath been a Plague to the Poor, as the Levite's Concubine was to the *Israelites*; they suffer Hunger for his ill done Deeds, as the *Israelites* did for *Abab* the King his ill done Deeds.

I tender the honourable Council of this City Ten hundred thousand Thanks; many a Time I went to Bed wanting my Supper, to give it to my Children, but now they have taken them off my Hand. There was many taken in to *Harlot's* Hospital beside mine, but none of them gave them so many Thanks. I am like that *Samaritan* we read who was cleansed of his Plague, so I am of mine.

